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Montana Employment AND Labor Force Trends

Montana Department of Labor & Industry

Office of Research & Analysis

4th Quarter 1997

Volume 27, Number 4

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Montana's Civilian Labor Force averaged 460,400 for the fourth quarter of 1997—down 8,400 over the quarter, but up 14,300 over the year.

Employment

The number of Montanans employed during the quarter averaged 436,800—down 11,800 over the quarter, but up 12,000 over the year.

Unemployment

About 23,600 Montanans were estimated to be unemployed during the quarter—3,400 more than

the previous quarter, and 2,300 more than the fourth quarter of 1996.

The average unemployment rate for the quarter was 5.1 percent—up 0.8 percent over the quarter, and up 0.3 percent over the year.

(See *Jobs by Industry* starting on page 5)

Quarterly Employment Trends						
Quarter	Civilian Labor Force*	MONTANA		Unemployment Rate (Montana)	UNITED STATES	
		Montanans Employed	Montanans Unemployed		Unemployment Rate (U.S.)	
1997 - 4th	460,400	436,800	23,600	5.1%	4.4%	
1997 - 3rd	468,800	448,600	20,200	4.3%	4.8%	
1997 - 2nd	460,500	438,300	22,200	4.8%	4.9%	
1997 - 1st	450,400	424,100	26,300	5.8%	5.7%	
1996 - 4th	446,100	424,800	21,300	4.8%	5.0%	

*Rounded Civilian Labor Force Numbers, 1997 Benchmark (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Montana's 10 Largest Employers

by State Economist Phil Brooks, Ph.D., Office of Research and Analysis, Montana Department of Labor and Industry

Who are the 10 largest employers in Montana? Although the Montana economy can be analyzed in many different ways, one simple but incomplete method is to look at Montana's largest employing organizations. An even simpler way is to just look at the 10 largest employers and construct a top 10 list, assuming David Letterman does not mind.

This article presents the top 10 employers in Montana as of 1996. (See "methodology" section on page 4 for how this list was compiled.)

2 Largest Employers

The 2 largest employers in Montana are state government and the federal government. This is not unique to Montana.

State government jobs comprise about 6 percent of total wage and salary jobs in Montana

according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The percentage for North Dakota and Wyoming is also approximately 6 percent. Idaho's equivalent percentage is 5 percent and South Dakota's is closer to 4 percent. The national average was 3.7 percent in 1996.

(Continued on next page)

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STATE DOCUMENTS SECTION

PLEASE RETURN

A comparison of federal government employment, both civilian and military, yields similar results. Montana's federal employment comprises about 6 percent of total wage and salary employment. This compares with 7 percent in North Dakota, 6 percent in Wyoming, 5 percent in South Dakota and 4 percent in Idaho. The national average was 4 percent in 1996.

Montana's federal government jobs continued a decline in 1997 that started in 1991, essentially following a national trend. Federal-civilian jobs likely will continue to decline in 1998, given announced cutbacks in U.S. Forest Service jobs and in other federal civilian agencies. Active duty military jobs will likely increase with the deployment of a small new engineering unit at Malmstrom Air Force Base. The prospect for military reservist jobs in 1998 is unclear.

State government jobs, which include postsecondary education, were about the same in 1997 as in 1996, with some growth in the postsecondary education component counterbalanced by declines in other state government jobs. No increase is expected for 1998.

Largest Private Employer

A nonprofit entity, **Providence Services**, the business arm of Sisters of Providence, is the largest private employer in Montana with about 3,700 employees in 1996. This group manages the new combined hospital in Great Falls, Benefis Healthcare; St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula; St. Joseph Hospital in Polson; the University of Great Falls; plus the St. Thomas Child and Family Center in Great Falls. Some jobs were eliminated in the consolidation of Montana Deaconess and Columbus hospitals into Benefis Healthcare. At the time of the merger, job cuts of 300-plus were announced, with 200 expected for 1997. According to newspaper accounts, however, less than 100 jobs were actually eliminated in 1997 at that one facility and no additional downsizing has been announced for other facilities managed by Providence Services.

Other Large Employers

The largest private, for-profit employer in Montana is the **Montana Power Co.**, employing approximately 2,800 in 1996 in electric, gas, and telephone utility services and mining. In December 1997, the company announced the future sale of its electrical generating facilities in 1998. According to newspaper articles, about 500 jobs are associated with these facilities.

The next largest private for-profit Montana employer is the **Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway**, with about 2,500 jobs in 1996. According to company officials, employment dropped by 100 to 200 jobs in 1997. The overall Montana railroad industry is projected to follow a national trend and decline modestly in employment over the next 5 to 10 years, according to Montana Department of Labor and Industry job projections.

The collection of corporations owned or controlled by **Dennis Washington** of Missoula employed about 2,100 in Montana in 1996. The economic activities provided by these corporations include railroad transportation services (Montana Rail Link—1,000 jobs), construction, and metal mining (Montana Resources in Butte—330 jobs). In

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addition, 1 of the Washington group's construction companies, Pro Builders, has been working on the new Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs since mid-1997, with completion of the project expected by September 1999.

Buttrey Food and Drug Co., headquartered in Great Falls, operates a total of 31 stores in Montana, with another store under construction in Great Falls. In mid-1996, a company official estimated Montana employment at about 2,000. A January 1998 announcement, however, has revealed that Buttrey Food and Drug is being acquired by **Albertson's, Inc.**, which currently has 8 stores in Montana. Assuming Federal Trade Commission approval of the acquisition, Albertson's will likely be on 1998's top 10 list.

The **Deaconess Billings Clinic Health System** employment was also estimated at about 2,000 for 1996. Nearly all jobs were in Billings. In January

1997, a plan to cut 200 full-time equivalent jobs was announced. This translates into about 250 actual jobs, since not all jobs are full time.

Another health provider, **Leavenworth Health Services**, operated by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, had statewide employment of about 1,900 in 1996. This nonprofit organization runs St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings, St. James Hospital in Butte, and, since April 1997, Holy Rosary Health Center in Miles City. No cutbacks have been announced for any of these facilities. St. James Hospital experienced employment declines earlier in the 1990s.

The **Billings School District** had about 1,900 jobs in 1996 on average. If the low employment summer months when school is not in session were not included in the average, employment would be closer to 2,200. Employment for 1997 was at about the same level as 1996.

10 Largest Montana Employers (1996 Full- and Part-Time Jobs)

Employer	Economic Activity	Montana Jobs
Montana State Government (includes education)	Public Services	22,800
United States Government (civilian & military)	Public Services	21,800
Providence Services	Hospital & Higher Education Services	3,700
Montana Power Co.	Utility Services, Mining	2,800
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway	Railroad Transportation Services	2,500
Washington Corporations	Railroad Transportation Services, Mining, Construction	2,100
Buttrey Food & Drug Co.	Retail Trade Services	2,000
Deaconess Billings Clinic Health System	Hospital/Other Health Services	2,000
Leavenworth Health Services	Hospital Services	1,900
Billings School District	Public Education Services	1,900

Sources: Personal communications from companies, local chambers of commerce, newspaper articles, Montana Department of Labor and Industry for Montana state/local government only, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis for U.S. government.

Also Worth Mentioning

One organization that didn't make the 1996 top 10 list, but is worth mentioning, is **Wal-Mart, Inc.** According to information from newspaper articles and local chambers of commerce, Wal-Mart, Inc.'s 1996 employment was estimated at about 1,600 in Montana. As Montana's population and economy continue to grow, one would expect employment growth in general merchandise stores like Wal-Mart, other factors being the same. In addition, Wal-Mart planned to open new stores in Polson and Miles City in January 1998, adding approximately 300 jobs to its statewide total.

Methodology

The list of Montana's 10 largest employers was compiled beginning in mid-1996 and completed with information on the federal government in September 1997. Data on federal employment, both civilian and military, is published by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis in September of each year for the previous year.

Information on Montana State Government and the Billings School District was available from published and unpublished Montana Department of Labor and Industry sources. The state government employment figure is from the data series that includes work-study student workers and elected officials, i.e., the broadest measure of employment in state government. If these were excluded, state government employment would be reduced by about 4,000. The employment shown for the Billings School District is an annual average that includes low summer employment when school is not in session. Total school district employment during the months that school is in session is higher.

Figures for Leavenworth Health Services (Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth) and Deaconess Billings Clinic Health System were compiled from county top 10 lists available from the Census and Economic Information Center, Montana Department of Commerce, and newspaper articles. Data for Wal-Mart came from newspaper articles and local chambers of commerce. The specific job estimates for Montana Rail Link and Montana Resources were obtained from newspapers.

Information for the other private employers on the statewide top 10 list was obtained from conversations with company officials, separate from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's confidential unemployment insurance reporting system. All private company figures on this list should be regarded as approximate, given the informal methodology that was used to gather the data. Because of this, all data presented, both for private and governmental entities, has been rounded to the nearest 100 jobs.

Largest Employers by County

Lists of top 10 employers with job estimates for selected counties (Yellowstone, Missoula, Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis & Clark, Silver Bow, Hill and Custer) are available from the Census and Economic Information Center, Montana Department of Commerce, 1424 9th Avenue, Helena, Montana 59620; phone: (406) 444-2896.

In addition, an alphabetical listing of top 10 or 20 private employers is available for Montana and its more populous counties from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Office of Research and Analysis.

Index of 1997 Research Articles

1st Quarter 1997

- ☛ Job Service Offers Broad Spectrum of Services
- ☛ Posters: Which are Required and Where to Obtain?

2nd Quarter 1997

- ☛ Where Montana Ranks

3rd Quarter 1997

- ☛ Montana Employment by Work Site Size

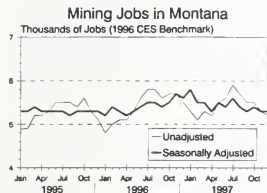
4th Quarter 1997

- ☛ Montana's 10 Largest Employers

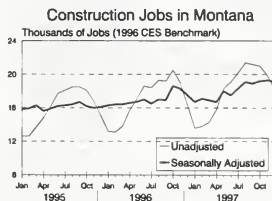
Wage and Salary Jobs by Industry Sectors

(NOTE: Numbers may not total due to rounding.)

Total **nonagricultural wage and salary employment** for the fourth quarter of 1997 averaged 370,200 jobs—up 1,100 jobs over the quarter, and up 5,600 jobs over the year.



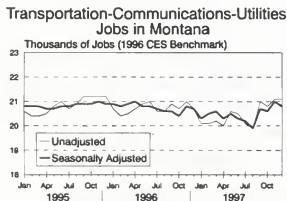
MINING averaged 5,300 jobs during the quarter—down about 400 jobs from the previous quarter, and down about 300 jobs over the year. Both the quarterly and over-the-year declines were in **metal mining** and **oil & gas extraction**.



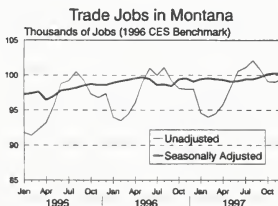
CONSTRUCTION averaged 19,700 jobs—down 1,200 over the quarter, but up 1,100 over the year. **General building contractors** was up 1,400 jobs over the year and **special trades** was up 1,000. **Heavy construction** job numbers were down by about 1,100 from the fourth quarter of 1996, when there was significant pipeline construction employment in the state.



MANUFACTURING averaged 24,300 jobs for the quarter—down about 200 jobs from the previous quarter and up about 100 jobs over the year.

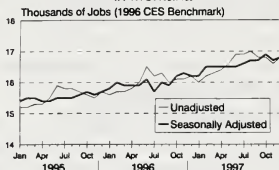


TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS & UTILITIES (tcu) averaged 21,000 jobs for the quarter—up about 700 jobs over the quarter and up about 200 jobs over the year. Most of the quarterly gain was in **local & interurban transportation** and **trucking & warehousing**.



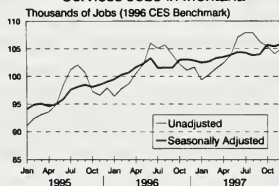
TRADE jobs averaged 99,200 for the quarter—down 2,100 jobs from the previous quarter, but up 1,200 over the year. **Eating & drinking places** declined by about 2,400 jobs over the quarter, but was up 1,000 jobs over the year. **Building materials & gardening supplies, food stores and gas stations** were each down about 300 jobs over the quarter.

Finance, Insurance & Real Estate Jobs in Montana



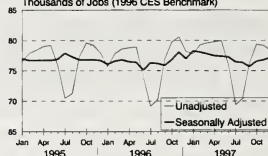
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE (FIRE) averaged 16,700 jobs—down about 200 jobs over the quarter, but up about 600 jobs over the year. **Commercial banks** and **real estate** each showed an increase of about 200 jobs over the year.

Services Jobs in Montana

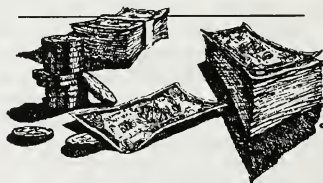


SERVICES averaged 104,800 jobs for the quarter—down about 2,500 jobs from the previous quarter, but up about 3,200 over the year. Over the quarter, **hotels & other lodging places** and **amusement, including movies** showed the largest job declines—while **educational services** and **social services** showed the biggest increases. Over the year, **hotels & other lodging places, business services, residential care and automobile & miscellaneous repair** showed the largest job increases.

Government Jobs in Montana Federal/State/Local, incl. Public Education



TOTAL GOVERNMENT jobs in Montana averaged 79,000 for the quarter—up a seasonal 7,000 jobs from the previous quarter, but down about 500 jobs over the year. The quarterly job gains were due to **state and local education** gearing up for fall classes. Over the year, **local education** was up by about 400 jobs, while **other local government** was down by about 700 when compared to the fourth quarter of 1996, when there was temporary election year employment. **Total federal government** was down by about 200 jobs over the year, while **total state government** was down by about 100.



Average Weekly Hours & Earnings

Average weekly earnings for production workers averaged \$358.53 during the fourth quarter—down \$1.07 from the previous quarter, but up \$9.60 over the year.

Average weekly hours for the quarter averaged 32.3—down 0.6 hour over the quarter, but up 0.2 hour over the year.

Average hourly earnings averaged \$11.10—up 17 cents over the quarter, and up 23 cents over the year.

Industry News from Around the State

(Gathered Primarily from State Newspaper Reports)

Agriculture

◇ **Although the Flathead area** experienced a good cherry crop this past summer, the Finley Point processing plant couldn't handle the volume. Montana cherry growers have decided to process next summer's cherry crop in Washington state rather than upgrade or replace the aging facility. A spokesperson for Monson Fruit Co. in Selah, Wash. says the cherries will first be chilled at the Finley Point plant—and then hauled to Washington in refrigerated trucks.

◇ **A mushroom growing operation** expects to be in operation near Stevensville by the summer of 1998. A Big Sky Mushrooms spokesperson says the company will grow about 1 million pounds of white button mushrooms per year for a regional market and employ about 18 full-time workers. Mushrooms will be grown in a controlled environment inside 8 greenhouses.

Mining

◇ **Mountain Inc. has been evicted** from its coal mine headquarters in the Bull Mountains in connection with debts owed by the company. The mine was previously owned by Meridian Minerals Co.

◇ **The federal buyout** of the proposed Crown Butte Mine near Yellowstone Park has been finalized.

Construction

◇ **Construction of an upscale private golf course** is under way near Hamilton, with completion expected by October 1998. The Stock Farm development will feature an 18-hole championship golf course, a 27,000 square-foot clubhouse with restaurant, 95 private homes, an equestrian center and 30 log cabins for guest golfers who have private memberships to the golf club. About 350 total memberships will be available. The development is on land that was once part of Marcus Daly's historic horse ranch.

◇ **Nearly \$18 million** has been allocated for the construction of new family housing units at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

◇ **Construction is under way** on the \$4.5 million Kintla Lodge at Big Mountain ski area near Whitefish. The lodge will have 20 condominium units and space for 6 to 10 retail businesses.

◇ **Construction has started** on the Blacktail Ski Resort lodge and parking area west of Lakeside. They are located at the summit of the ski area. Skiers will ski down from the summit and ride lifts back to the top. The resort expects to open Dec. 1, 1998.

◇ **Building has begun** on a \$2 million community facility in Crow Agency. It will be used for tribal council meetings and other community activities.

◇ **A \$3.3 million, 65-unit Great Northern Inn** is being built in Havre by Duck Inn, Inc.

◇ **Construction should begin early in 1998** on a \$1.8 million city-county health department building in downtown Great Falls. A spokesperson says she expects the 17,800-square-foot building to be completed by the end of 1998.

Manufacturing

◇ **Semitool has announced plans** for a \$5 million expansion of its Kalispell plant to meet demand for the Equinox LT-210 machine it manufactures and sells to computer companies for a new computer chip manufacturing process that involves electroplating copper onto silicon wafers.

◇ **Ultrafem Inc.** has announced a remodel of its Missoula factory to prepare for the installation of fully-automated equipment that will greatly increase that facility's production capacity of its Instead feminine protection product. In the meantime, however, about half the plant's workers were laid off in early January to "conserve cash," a spokesperson said, while the company restructures its finances.

◇ **JD Lumber is closing** its sawmill in Judith Gap. About 40 people have already been laid off, and the remaining 25 people will be laid off in February, when the mill is to officially close.

◇ **Video Lottery Technologies, Inc.** will change its name to Powerhouse Technologies, Inc. effective Jan. 1, 1998. A spokesperson says the company's

main operating subsidiaries—Automated Wagering International, Inc.; Video Lottery Consultants, Inc.; United Tote Co.; and Sunland Park racetrack—will continue to maintain their individual identities.

❖ **Crazy Creek Products, Inc.** has laid off 8 of its 33 employees at its plant in Red Lodge. A spokesperson says some of the firm's portable outdoor chairs are now assembled in China and then shipped to Red Lodge for distribution. He says some chair production will continue in Red Lodge, such as sewing, distribution and administration.

❖ **A plant to manufacture** a building material out of straw has been proposed for the Rudyard area by Biogold Corp. If the \$13 million strawboard plant becomes a reality, about 35 to 40 people would manufacture a 3/4 inch-thick building product to be used for trailer decking and in the manufacture of furniture. A co-op of area farmers would supply the 54,000 to 60,000 tons of straw that would be needed each year.

❖ **A Whitefish company** is designing and building high-tech outhouses for the backcountry. Advanced Composting Systems custom designs outhouses that use solar panels, fans, earthworms, bugs and micro-organisms to compost waste.

❖ **Bozeman's Big Sky Laser Technologies** has bought an Ohio laser company to keep up with new laser technology. While Big Sky Laser produces flashlamp lasers, Diode Pumped Laser Technologies of Dayton, Ohio specializes in a newer technology that produces smaller and more efficient lasers. Diode Pumped Laser will become an engineering arm of Big Sky Laser and remain in Dayton. Three employees will be added to Diode Pumped Laser's current work force of 9. Two or 3 people may be added to the 50-person Big Sky Laser work force.

❖ **Denton's Montana Sunflower Co.** is expanding its plant and its product line. The company processes and packages seed for feeding wild birds and markets it throughout the western United States. Five people currently work at the plant and another will be added as soon as the plant expansion is completed. A company spokesperson says additional employees will be added as business expands.

❖ **The Blaine County Journal, Chinook Opinion and Harlem News** have merged into 1 weekly newspaper called *The Journal, News & Opinion*.

Transportation, Communications & Utilities

❖ **Montana Power Co.** has announced plans to sell all its power-generating plants in Montana, which include 13 dams and 4 coal-fired plants. The company plans to expand its telecommunications focus and will continue transmitting and distributing natural gas and electricity. In fact, it has formed a new subsidiary, the Montana Power Trading & Marketing Co., to market power to other western states and has already landed a major contract with TRW Inc., which runs 44 aerospace and defense electronic facilities in California. It is hoped that the 500 power plant workers currently with Montana Power will keep their positions under new management.

❖ **U S WEST Communications** has announced that it is locating a new Customer Billing Inquiry Center in Helena that will employ about 150 people by the end of 1998 and up to 300 people by the year 2000. Both full- and part-time workers will handle calls from customers in a 14-state area. It is supposed to open in February or March and will eventually operate around the clock.

❖ **The Great Falls Airport Authority** is having preliminary design work done for a proposed new cargo facility at the airport. A board spokesperson says cargo is the fastest-growing part of the airport business in Great Falls and around the country. He says he expects the preliminary design of the \$5 million facility to be completed by spring of 1998. Federal Express would be the major tenant, but the facility could eventually house other air cargo operations as well.

❖ **The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway** is upgrading the rail line connecting Laurel with Shelby. A company spokesperson says the 10 new workers hired to help operate an additional 3 or 4 trains each day bring BNSF employment to about 150 in the Great Falls area.

❖ **A new company** that intends to start an air cargo service based in Butte has purchased the old Safeway warehouse in Butte to use as its headquarters. The owner of U.S. Jet Inc. says he has closed a deal to lease 3 Boeing 747 jets to fly cargo from Butte to the South Pacific islands of Fiji and Borneo. And he hopes to lease a fleet of Boeing 727s to fly

cargo between Butte and cities such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Dallas and Houston.

Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

◇ **Two new health maintenance** organizations have been licensed by the state. New West Health Plan will market its health insurance plans to employers in the Helena, Billings and Missoula areas. Big Sky Community Health Plan will market its coverage plans in the Havre area and surrounding counties. The Deaconess Billings Clinic has an HMO application under review.

◇ **Kalispell-based Glacier Bancorp Inc.** has signed an agreement to buy Valley Bank of Helena.

◇ **Yellowstone Bank** is establishing 2 new Billings branches at a remodeled downtown drive-in formerly owned by Norwest Bank and a new building in the Billings Heights area. First Citizens Bank is also building a branch in the Heights, and Norwest Bank plans to set up a Heights branch at the former American Bank location, pending regulatory approval.

◇ **On the grocery banking front,** First National Bank of Montana has established a banking branch in the Helena Albertson's store located on Montana Ave.—and plans 8 more grocery store branches in Albertson's stores around the state in the next 3 to 5 years. First Citizens Bank is establishing a branch at the new County Market under construction in Billings. And First Security Bank of Laurel is opening a branch in Jan's IGA in Laurel. Norwest Bank is locating bank branches in a number of Buttreys stores around the state.

◇ **The Dain Bosworth securities firm,** based in Minneapolis, is merging with Rauscher Pierce Refsnes, based in Dallas, to form Dain Rauscher Inc. Dain maintains Montana brokerage offices in Billings and Great Falls.

◇ **U.S. Bancorp is acquiring** Piper Jaffray's brokerage, investment banking operations, and merger and acquisition operations, pending regulatory approval.

Trade

◇ **The Bon Marche department store** in Great Falls is closing in January 1998. A company official attributes the closure to disappointing sales. He says the Bon stores in downtown Missoula and the

Bozeman shopping mall will remain open. The Great Falls Bon has about 50 employees.

◇ **Two furniture stores are closing** in Great Falls: Falls Home Furnishings and Scan Am Furniture & Gifts.

◇ **The 200-store Anthony store chain** is being taken over nationally by State Stores, Inc. An Anthony spokesperson in Montana says employees will probably not be affected by the ownership change.

◇ **A Barnes & Noble bookstore,** an Office Max office products store and a Pier 1 Imports store have opened in the new Great Falls Marketplace.

◇ **In Missoula,** the Gap, Gap Kids, Baby Gap and Gymboree stores have opened in Southgate Mall—and Pier 1 Imports has opened on North Reserve St.

◇ **There were enough** beer and wine licenses to go around in much of Montana, but lotteries determined which current and prospective restaurants in 6 Montana cities that had more applicants than licenses would be able to buy the "cabaret" licenses. Selected restaurants must then formally apply for a license and go through an investigation and review process.

◇ **MacKenzie Northwest Inc.** is expanding its chain of MacKenzie River Pizza Co. restaurants. Restaurants being developed in Kalispell and Billings will join already existing restaurants in Bozeman, Great Falls and Missoula. In addition, a smaller, Catch it on the Fly pizza restaurant has opened in Belgrade, and 2 more are planned for Boise, Idaho.

◇ **Zu Zu's Bakery and Bookstore** has opened in Choteau.

◇ **Bluewater Bakery and Coffee House** has opened in conjunction with the Clarks Fork Fitness and Training Center in Bridger.

◇ **Frontier Family Restaurants** has opened a Pitmasters Braggin' Rights BBX in Missoula at the former site of a Frontier Pies restaurant. A company spokesperson says Pitmasters is intended as a prototype for a chain of franchised barbecue restaurants. Meat is slowly cooked in smokers and served without barbecue sauce.

◇ **A Cracker Barrel restaurant** has opened in Billings.

◊ **Tri-County Implement** in Wolf Point has closed. The manager says the community's only implement store was not making enough profit.

Services

◊ **A state official** says summer tourism got off to a relatively slow start, but improved late in the summer and in the fall. He says that he expects 1997 will prove to be a very profitable tourism year historically. Another official says he expects the upcoming bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition to bring additional tourism to the state.

◊ **The company that began** managing mental-health services for the poor in Montana in April has changed hands again. CMG Health Inc. became a wholly-owned subsidiary of New Jersey-based Merit Behavioral Care Corp. in July. Then in October it was purchased by Magellan Health Services of Atlanta, which is the country's largest private managed care company specializing in mental health.

◊ **A Portland marketing-research firm** is opening a call center in Missoula to conduct telephone surveys for corporate clients. A company spokesperson says the center will employ as many as 7 to 10 full-time and 80 to 100 part-time workers.

◊ **The 2 new outpatient surgery centers** that were on hold in Great Falls because of a challenge to their certificates of need are moving ahead. Construction of both surgery centers is set to begin in March. Benefis Hospital will become a partner in the Great Falls Clinic surgery center. (Benefis will close its outpatient surgery center at the Benefis East campus, but continue to offer outpatient surgery at Benefis West.) The Central Montana Surgery Center will remain an independent operation.

◊ **Laurel Medical Center** has become part of St. Vincent Hospital and Health Center's Primary Care Network. Three physicians and 12 other employees are currently employed at the Laurel clinic.

◊ **Financing is being finalized** for an assisted living facility to be operated in conjunction with the Carbon County Memorial Hospital in Red Lodge. The 60-unit facility will employ about 20 full-time workers and share additional staff, administration and laundry facilities with the hospital.

◊ **The Pioneer Medical Center's** new medical clinic in Big Timber has opened. The clinic's physician, nurse practitioner and physician assistant are employed by Park Clinic in Livingston, which has a contract to provide medical coverage for the Big Timber facility.

◊ **The Montana Eye Surgi-Center** in Great Falls closed without warning in November.

◊ **Northwest Outdoor Advertising**, based in Boise, Idaho, has purchased Myhre Advertising, which is based in Helena. Myhre's new name will be Montana Outdoor Advertising. It markets billboards, posters and painted bulletins, and also has offices in Great Falls and Billings.

◊ **An Econo Lodge** is slated to open in Livingston in May. Twelve to 20 people will work at the 50-unit motel.

◊ **Three Forks' Sacajawea Inn** has closed, putting about 6 employees out of work. Its owner says he hopes to sell the historic inn as a complete business.

◊ **The director of the Montana Film Commission** says the state economy realized a \$15 million to \$16 million benefit from commercial filming this year, including movies, TV commercials and documentaries. The final major movie to be filmed in Montana during 1997 was "The Patriot," which was filmed primarily in the Ennis area, with additional scenes filmed in Virginia City and on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman.

Government

◊ **The 170 U.S. Forest Service workers** accepting an early retirement buyout plan in the Northern Region include 111 working in Montana. The buyout plan is intended to cut costs, and most positions will not be refilled, according to a Northern Region spokesperson.

◊ **NASA has given final approval** to 5 or more test landings of the experimental X-33 spacecraft at Malmstrom Air Force Base—probably late in 1999. The unpiloted X-33 would be launched from Edwards Air Force Base in California and land at Malmstrom about 28 minutes later. It would then be strapped to a transport plane and returned to California.



Local Area
Unemployment
Statistics

TABLE 1-A
MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

97 BMK
DECEMBER 1997 (P)

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MONTANA	459,369	432,970	26,399	5.7%
YELLOWSTONE	69,889	66,810	3,079	4.4%
CASCADE	37,829	35,685	2,144	5.7%
BEAVERHEAD	4,890	4,633	257	5.3%
BIG HORN	4,453	4,016	437	9.8%
BLAINE	2,801	2,557	244	8.7%
BROADWATER	1,928	1,822	106	5.5%
CARBON	4,432	4,133	299	6.7%
CARTER	870	849	21	2.4%
CHOUTEAU	2,619	2,522	97	3.7%
CUSTER	6,155	5,836	319	5.2%
DANIELS	1,349	1,326	23	1.7%
DAWSON	5,219	5,054	165	3.2%
DEER LODGE	3,949	3,659	290	7.3%
FALLON	1,581	1,524	57	3.6%
FERGUS	5,977	5,524	453	7.6%
FLATHEAD	40,250	37,106	3,144	7.8%
GALLATIN	39,524	38,173	1,351	3.4%
GARFIELD	912	868	44	4.8%
GLACIER	5,309	4,567	742	14.0%
GOLDEN VALLEY	506	462	44	8.7%
GRANITE	1,087	974	113	10.4%
HILL	9,885	9,393	492	5.0%
JEFFERSON	4,702	4,469	233	5.0%
JUDITH BASIN	1,008	932	76	7.5%
LAKE	11,346	10,473	873	7.7%
LEWIS & CLARK	28,195	26,732	1,463	5.2%
LIBERTY	1,023	1,000	23	2.2%
LINCOLN	7,300	6,351	949	13.0%
MCCONE	1,108	1,048	60	5.4%
MADISON	3,436	3,211	225	6.5%
MEAGHER	967	905	62	6.4%
MINERAL	1,560	1,390	170	10.9%
MISSOULA	52,105	49,660	2,445	4.7%
MUSSELSHELL	1,857	1,717	140	7.5%
PARK	10,017	9,286	731	7.3%
PETROLEUM	317	292	25	7.9%
PHILLIPS	2,375	2,157	218	9.2%
PONDERA	3,094	2,929	165	5.3%
POWDER RIVER	1,147	1,113	34	3.0%
POWELL	2,439	2,301	138	5.7%
PRAIRIE	708	664	44	6.2%
RAVALLI	16,608	15,457	1,151	6.9%
RICHLAND	5,432	5,221	211	3.9%
ROOSEVELT	4,218	3,853	365	8.7%
ROSEBUD	4,455	4,080	375	8.4%
SANDERS	3,848	3,388	460	12.0%
SHERIDAN	2,176	2,109	67	3.1%
SILVER BOW	17,944	17,009	935	5.2%
STILLWATER	4,202	3,986	216	5.1%
SWEET GRASS	1,694	1,602	92	5.4%
TETON	3,002	2,871	131	4.4%
TOOLE	2,818	2,740	78	2.8%
TREASURE	472	449	23	4.9%
VALLEY	4,522	4,347	175	3.9%
WHEATLAND	1,294	1,184	110	8.5%
WIBAUX	564	548	16	2.8%
L & C/JEFFERSON LMA	32,897	31,201	1,696	5.2%
MSLA/RAVALLI LMA	68,713	65,117	3,596	5.2%

SOURCE FOR DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-1 ON FINAL PAGE



Local Area
Unemployment
Statistics

TABLE 1-B
MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

97 BMK
NOVEMBER 1997 (R)

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MONTANA	460,028	436,405	23,623	5.1%
YELLOWSTONE	69,496	66,766	2,730	3.9%
CASCADE	37,438	35,425	2,013	5.4%
BEAVERHEAD	5,015	4,799	216	4.3%
BIG HORN	4,452	4,049	403	9.1%
BLAINE	2,958	2,716	242	8.2%
BROADWATER	1,947	1,856	91	4.7%
CARBON	4,114	3,867	247	6.0%
CARTER	1,036	1,017	19	1.8%
CHOUTEAU	2,961	2,872	89	3.0%
CUSTER	6,090	5,872	218	3.6%
DANIELS	1,438	1,414	24	1.7%
DAWSON	5,182	5,026	156	3.0%
DEER LODGE	3,854	3,828	226	5.9%
FALLON	1,660	1,607	53	3.2%
FERGUS	6,077	5,712	365	6.0%
FLATHEAD	40,221	37,294	2,927	7.3%
GALLATIN	39,451	37,947	1,504	3.8%
GARFIELD	1,015	965	50	4.9%
GLACIER	5,333	4,673	660	12.4%
GOLDEN VALLEY	561	513	48	8.6%
GRANITE	1,077	998	79	7.3%
HILL	9,973	9,522	451	4.5%
JEFFERSON	4,653	4,442	211	4.5%
JUDITH BASIN	1,098	1,036	62	5.6%
LAKE	11,200	10,480	720	6.4%
LEWIS & CLARK	27,932	26,569	1,363	4.9%
LIBERTY	1,078	1,049	29	2.7%
LINCOLN	7,287	6,469	818	11.2%
MCCONE	1,232	1,196	36	2.9%
MADISON	3,263	3,124	139	4.3%
MEAGHER	963	915	48	5.0%
MINERAL	1,552	1,413	139	9.0%
MISSOULA	52,658	50,440	2,218	4.2%
MUSSELSHELL	1,874	1,773	101	5.4%
PARK	9,860	9,150	710	7.2%
PETROLEUM	334	317	17	5.1%
PHILLIPS	2,511	2,379	132	5.3%
PONDERA	3,239	3,097	142	4.4%
POWDER RIVER	1,325	1,291	34	2.6%
POWELL	2,394	2,281	113	4.7%
PRAIRIE	726	690	36	5.0%
RAVALLI	16,601	15,700	901	5.4%
RICHLAND	5,523	5,293	230	4.2%
ROOSEVELT	4,174	3,891	283	6.8%
ROSEBUD	4,483	4,154	329	7.3%
SANDERS	3,797	3,449	348	9.2%
SHERIDAN	2,219	2,159	60	2.7%
SILVER BOW	17,683	16,884	799	4.5%
STILLWATER	4,239	4,011	228	5.4%
SWEET GRASS	1,692	1,625	67	4.0%
TETON	3,079	2,961	118	3.8%
TOOLE	2,884	2,802	82	2.8%
TREASURE	499	482	17	3.4%
VALLEY	4,642	4,488	154	3.3%
WHEATLAND	1,375	1,267	108	7.9%
WIBAUX	610	588	22	3.6%
L & C/JEFFERSON LMA	32,585	31,011	1,574	4.8%
MSL/RAVALLI LMA	69,259	66,140	3,119	4.5%

SOURCE FOR DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-1 ON FINAL PAGE



TABLE 1-C
MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

97 BMK
 OCTOBER 1997 (R)

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MONTANA	461,698	441,076	20,622	4.5%
YELLOWSTONE	69,622	67,051	2,571	3.7%
CASCADE	37,379	35,718	1,661	4.4%
BEAVERHEAD	5,060	4,907	153	3.0%
BIG HORN	4,565	4,140	425	9.3%
BLAINE	3,102	2,874	228	7.4%
BROADWATER	1,970	1,890	80	4.1%
CARBON	4,304	4,034	270	6.3%
CARTER	1,045	1,024	21	2.0%
CHOUTEAU	2,987	2,922	65	2.2%
CUSTER	6,216	5,993	223	3.6%
DANIELS	1,387	1,361	26	1.9%
DAWSON	5,215	5,067	148	2.8%
DEER LODGE	3,856	3,700	156	4.0%
FALLON	1,648	1,601	47	2.9%
FERGUS	6,152	5,895	257	4.2%
FLATHEAD	40,179	37,704	2,475	6.2%
GALLATIN	39,192	37,989	1,203	3.1%
GARFIELD	1,078	1,034	44	4.1%
GLACIER	5,764	5,129	635	11.0%
GOLDEN VALLEY	574	538	36	6.3%
GRANITE	1,028	974	54	5.3%
HILL	9,873	9,466	407	4.1%
JEFFERSON	4,646	4,447	199	4.3%
JUDITH BASIN	1,109	1,060	49	4.4%
LAKE	11,355	10,681	674	5.9%
LEWIS & CLARK	27,911	26,604	1,307	4.7%
LIBERTY	1,078	1,057	21	1.9%
LINCOLN	7,005	6,380	625	8.9%
MCCONE	1,223	1,184	39	3.2%
MADISON	3,351	3,247	104	3.1%
MEAGHER	970	936	34	3.5%
MINERAL	1,539	1,430	109	7.1%
MISSOULA	52,372	50,519	1,853	3.5%
MUSSELSHELL	1,914	1,795	119	6.2%
PARK	10,357	9,901	456	4.4%
PETROLEUM	317	304	13	4.1%
PHILLIPS	2,531	2,394	137	5.4%
PONDERA	3,313	3,194	119	3.6%
POWDER RIVER	1,278	1,252	26	2.0%
POWELL	2,412	2,319	93	3.9%
PRAIRIE	758	727	31	4.1%
RAVALLI	16,468	15,724	744	4.5%
RICHLAND	5,679	5,459	220	3.9%
ROOSEVELT	4,365	4,044	321	7.4%
ROSEBUD	4,613	4,266	347	7.5%
SANDERS	3,809	3,495	314	8.2%
SHERIDAN	2,243	2,189	54	2.4%
SILVER BOW	17,795	17,028	767	4.3%
STILLWATER	4,262	4,057	205	4.8%
SWEET GRASS	1,701	1,641	60	3.5%
TETON	3,174	3,083	91	2.9%
TOOLE	2,900	2,830	70	2.4%
TREASURE	500	487	13	2.6%
VALLEY	4,659	4,509	150	3.2%
WHEATLAND	1,298	1,251	47	3.6%
WIBAUX	597	571	26	4.4%
L & C/JEFFERSON LMA	32,557	31,051	1,506	4.6%
MSLA/RAVALLI LMA	68,840	66,243	2,597	3.8%

SOURCE FOR DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-1 ON FINAL PAGE



TABLE II
MONTANA CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY STATISTICS
 (IN THOUSANDS)

1997 ANNUAL DATA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ^{1/}	447.6	449.6	454.2	457.3	459.0	465.2	471.8	472.3	461.3	461.7	460.0	459.4	460.0
EMPLOYED PERSONS	421.2	423.3	428.0	433.7	438.5	442.6	449.9	452.3	442.3	441.1	436.4	433.0	436.9
LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE ^{2/}	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PERSONS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE	26.9	25.4	29.9	31.3	36.1	39.9	42.5	44.3	45.4	40.4	36.0	29.3	35.6
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	26.4	26.3	26.2	23.6	20.4	22.6	21.9	20.0	19.0	20.6	23.6	26.4	23.1
% OF LABOR FORCE, UNADJUSTED ^{3/}	5.9%	5.9%	5.8%	5.2%	4.4%	4.9%	4.6%	4.2%	4.1%	4.5%	5.1%	5.7%	5.0%
% OF LABOR FORCE, SEASONALLY ADJ	4.8%	4.6%	4.4%	5.3%	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%	5.1%	4.9%	5.0%	5.2%	5.4%	5.0%
U.S. UNADJUSTED	5.9%	5.7%	5.5%	4.8%	4.7%	5.2%	5.0%	4.8%	4.7%	4.4%	4.3%	4.4%	4.9%
U.S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	5.4%	5.3%	5.2%	4.9%	4.8%	5.0%	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%	4.8%	4.6%	4.7%	4.9%
1996 ANNUAL DATA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ^{1/}	434.4	439.3	442.3	446.3	447.0	454.3	457.6	453.8	445.6	447.9	447.3	443.1	446.6
EMPLOYED PERSONS	404.5	408.9	413.9	422.3	424.7	430.6	435.8	434.6	426.9	428.5	426.1	419.9	423.1
LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE ^{2/}	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PERSONS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE	30.5	29.5	34.0	35.6	37.1	37.4	38.3	38.2	37.4	37.3	32.8	30.5	35.0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	29.9	30.4	28.4	24.0	22.3	23.7	21.8	19.2	18.7	19.4	21.2	23.2	23.5
% OF LABOR FORCE, UNADJUSTED ^{3/}	6.9%	6.9%	6.4%	5.4%	5.0%	5.2%	4.8%	4.2%	4.2%	4.3%	4.7%	5.2%	5.3%
% OF LABOR FORCE, SEASONALLY ADJ	5.7%	5.8%	5.6%	5.5%	5.4%	5.4%	5.3%	5.1%	5.1%	4.9%	4.8%	4.8%	5.3%
U.S. UNADJUSTED	8.3%	8.0%	5.8%	5.4%	5.4%	5.5%	5.8%	5.1%	5.0%	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%	5.4%
U.S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.3%	5.4%	5.2%	5.2%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.4%
1995 ANNUAL DATA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ^{1/}	431.8	437.5	435.3	436.1	435.3	442.4	448.5	444.5	436.4	435.8	435.4	434.2	437.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	403.6	404.5	407.2	411.6	411.5	416.6	424.1	421.8	414.1	412.0	409.4	406.8	411.9
LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE ^{2/}	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PERSONS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE	25.2	28.0	28.8	32.1	31.4	32.7	34.7	36.3	32.9	33.0	28.3	28.9	31.0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	28.2	33.0	28.1	24.5	23.8	25.8	24.4	22.7	22.3	23.8	26.0	27.4	25.8
% OF LABOR FORCE, UNADJUSTED ^{3/}	6.5%	7.5%	6.5%	5.6%	5.5%	5.8%	5.4%	5.1%	5.1%	5.5%	6.0%	6.3%	5.9%
% OF LABOR FORCE, SEASONALLY ADJ	5.4%	8.2%	5.6%	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	6.0%	6.1%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	5.9%	5.9%
U.S. UNADJUSTED	6.2%	5.9%	5.7%	5.6%	5.5%	5.8%	5.9%	5.6%	5.4%	5.2%	5.3%	5.2%	5.8%
U.S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	5.6%	5.5%	5.4%	5.7%	5.8%	5.8%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%	5.5%	5.6%	5.6%	5.8%
1994 ANNUAL DATA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ^{1/}	427.0	431.6	434.7	439.7	439.5	446.3	452.8	450.4	441.3	438.9	437.4	434.3	439.5
EMPLOYED PERSONS	399.5	403.4	408.8	418.5	420.3	425.6	433.0	432.3	422.7	418.8	415.0	408.9	417.2
LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE ^{2/}	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PERSONS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE	28.8	27.6	31.3	34.2	35.8	36.1	35.9	33.2	28.1	29.9	23.1	23.0	30.6
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	27.5	28.2	25.9	21.2	19.2	20.7	19.8	18.1	18.6	20.1	22.4	25.4	22.3
% OF LABOR FORCE, UNADJUSTED ^{3/}	6.4%	6.5%	6.0%	4.8%	4.4%	4.6%	4.4%	4.0%	4.2%	4.6%	5.1%	5.9%	5.1%
% OF LABOR FORCE, SEASONALLY ADJ	5.3%	5.2%	5.1%	5.0%	4.8%	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%	5.4%	5.1%
U.S. UNADJUSTED	7.3%	7.1%	6.8%	6.2%	5.9%	6.2%	6.2%	5.9%	5.8%	5.4%	5.3%	5.1%	6.1%
U.S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	6.7%	6.6%	6.5%	6.4%	6.0%	6.1%	6.1%	6.1%	5.9%	5.8%	5.6%	5.4%	6.1%

^{1/}ESTIMATES BASED ON NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SAMPLE, CENSUS AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS: INCLUDES SELF-EMPLOYED, UNPAID FAMILY AND DOMESTIC WORKERS. CURRENT MONTH PRELIMINARY. REVISED TO 1997 BENCHMARKS.

^{2/}NONADDITIVE: INCLUDED IN TOTAL EMPLOYMENT.

^{3/}COMPUTED FROM WHOLE (UNROUNDED) NUMBERS. RESIDENCE SERIES BEGAN IN JANUARY 1970.

*UNDER 50

SOURCE FOR RESIDENCE DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTES S-1 AND S-2 ON FINAL PAGE.

TABLE III
MONTANA
STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
(IN THOUSANDS)



Current
Employment
Statistics

96BM

1997

(Page 1)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA) 1997													
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY JOBS	350.4	352.3	354.8	358.5	366.5	370.2	365.9	369.1	372.3	372.6	369.5	368.5	364.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	272.6	273.0	275.2	278.7	286.5	294.1	296.5	298.7	296.1	293.2	290.3	290.1	287.0
GOODS PRODUCING	42.5	42.4	42.8	44.1	47.3	49.0	50.5	51.8	51.2	51.1	49.5	47.7	47.4
SERVICE PRODUCING	307.9	309.9	312.0	314.4	319.2	321.2	315.4	317.3	321.1	321.5	320.0	320.8	316.7
PRIVATE SERVICE PRODUCING	230.1	230.6	232.4	234.6	239.2	245.1	246.0	246.9	244.9	242.1	240.8	242.4	239.5
MINING	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.4
METAL MINING	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0
GOLD & SILVER ORES	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
COAL MINING	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9
OIL & GAS EXTRACTION	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5
NONMETALLIC MINERALS	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
CONSTRUCTION	13.6	13.8	14.3	15.8	18.3	19.1	20.2	21.4	21.2	21.0	19.9	18.3	18.0
GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.6	5.1	5.3	5.9	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.1	5.4
HEAVY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS	2.4	2.5	2.6	3.0	4.2	4.4	4.6	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.0	3.2	3.7
SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS	7.0	7.0	7.3	8.2	9.0	9.4	9.7	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.6	9.0	8.8
MANUFACTURING	23.6	23.5	23.2	23.1	23.5	24.3	24.4	24.7	24.5	24.6	24.3	24.2	23.9
DURABLE GOODS	14.5	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.7	15.3	15.4	15.5	15.3	15.3	15.1	15.0	14.9
LUMBER & WOOD PRODUCTS	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.1
*LOGGING	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2
SAWMILLS & PLANING	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4
*STONE, CLAY & GLASS	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
NONDURABLE GOODS	9.1	9.1	8.8	8.8	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.0
FOOD & KINDRED PRODUCTS	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.0
PRINTING & PUBLISHING	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0
TRANS., COMM., & UTILITIES	20.1	20.1	20.2	20.0	20.6	20.5	20.1	19.9	21.0	20.8	21.1	21.1	20.4
TRANSPORTATION	12.9	12.8	12.9	12.8	13.1	13.0	12.7	12.5	13.4	13.3	13.7	13.7	13.0
RAILROAD	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
LOCAL & INTERURBAN	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4
TRUCKING & WAREHOUSE	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.1
COMMUNICATIONS & UTILITIES	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.3
COMMUNICATIONS	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
TELEPHONE COMM.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
ELECTRIC, GAS, SANITARY	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9
COMBINATION UTILITY	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2
TRADE	94.6	94.0	94.5	95.8	98.2	100.6	101.1	102.1	100.8	99.1	99.0	99.5	98.2
WHOLESALE TRADE	18.2	18.2	18.4	18.6	18.7	18.8	18.7	18.6	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.4	18.5
WHOLESALE - DURABLES	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.5
WHOLESALE - NONDURABLE	8.8	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.9
RETAIL TRADE	76.4	75.8	76.1	77.2	79.5	81.8	82.4	83.5	82.3	80.6	80.5	81.1	79.7
BLDNG MATERIALS, GRDN SUPL	3.8	3.6	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0
GENERAL MERCHANDISE	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.9	9.4	9.4	8.6
DEPARTMENT STORES	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.9	7.9	7.1
FOOD STORES	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.8	11.0	11.1	11.0	10.9	10.7	10.8	10.8	10.7
AUTOMOTIVE DEALERS	11.3	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.4	11.7	11.8	11.8	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.3	11.4
NEW, USED CAR DEALER	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7

SOURCE FOR DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-4 ON FINAL PAGE

*ITEMS MARKED WITH AN * ARE PRODUCED BY THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY FOR USE AS
STATE ECONOMIC INDICATORS

TABLE III
MONTANA
STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
(IN THOUSANDS)

CES

Current
Employment
Statistics

96 BM

1997

(Page 2)

(ESTABLISHMENT DATA) 1997

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
GAS STATIONS	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0
APPAREL & ACCESSORY	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.1
FURN, HOMEFURN, EQUIP	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3
EATING & DRINKING	28.5	28.7	29.0	29.8	30.9	32.2	32.8	33.7	32.9	31.3	30.5	30.4	30.8
MISC. RETAIL	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.7	9.2	8.4
FINANCE, INS., REAL EST.	16.0	16.2	16.3	16.4	16.6	16.9	16.9	17.0	16.8	16.8	16.6	16.8	16.6
FINANCE	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.9	8.7
DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4
COMMERCIAL BANKS	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.6
INSURANCE	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
INSURANCE CARRIERS	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1
INSURANCE AGENTS	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
REAL ESTATE	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
SERVICES	99.4	100.3	101.4	102.4	103.8	107.1	107.9	107.9	106.3	105.4	104.1	105.0	104.2
HOTELS & OTHR LODGING	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.9	8.7	10.7	11.2	11.4	10.3	9.5	8.8	8.9	9.2
PERSONAL SERVICES	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
BUSINESS SERVICES	12.5	12.6	13.2	13.4	13.5	13.8	14.0	14.1	14.3	14.4	13.8	13.7	13.6
AUTO & MISC. REPAIR	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.1
AMUSEMENT, INCLUDING MOVIES	7.9	8.0	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.8	9.1	9.2	8.5	7.9	7.8	8.4	8.2
HEALTH SERVICES	31.6	31.7	31.6	31.6	31.4	31.6	31.7	31.7	31.5	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.5
NURSING & PERSONAL CARE	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8
HOSPITALS	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.7	15.8	15.9	16.0	15.8	15.8	15.8	15.8	15.8
LEGAL SERVICES	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.9	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.3
SOCIAL SERVICES	10.1	10.1	10.3	10.5	10.5	10.3	10.1	10.2	10.5	10.7	10.9	11.1	10.4
RESIDENTIAL CARE	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2
MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.9	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.9	8.8
ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.9	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.7
ENGINEER, ARCHITECTS	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1
* ACCOUNTING, AUDITING	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	77.8	79.3	79.6	79.8	80.0	76.1	69.4	70.4	76.2	79.4	79.2	78.4	77.1
TOTAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	11.8	11.8	11.8	12.2	12.8	13.4	13.5	13.5	13.3	12.7	11.9	11.9	12.5
TOTAL STATE GOVERNMENT	23.4	24.4	24.3	24.1	23.0	20.2	19.7	20.3	23.2	24.3	24.4	23.8	22.9
STATE EDUCATION	12.2	13.1	12.9	12.8	11.8	9.0	8.6	9.3	12.2	13.4	13.5	12.9	11.8
* OTHER STATE GOVERNMENT	11.2	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.0	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.0
TOTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT	42.6	43.1	43.5	43.5	44.2	42.5	36.2	36.6	39.7	42.4	42.9	42.7	41.6
LOCAL EDUCATION	28.1	28.6	28.9	28.9	29.0	26.2	19.6	19.4	25.0	28.1	28.6	28.5	26.5
* OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT	14.5	14.5	14.6	14.6	15.2	16.3	16.6	17.2	14.8	14.3	14.3	14.2	15.0

*SEE FOOTNOTE ON PAGE 1 OF THIS TABLE

TABLE IV
MONTANA
STATEWIDE FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
(IN THOUSANDS)

1997

968M

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AVG
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA) 1997													
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY JOBS	174.4	175.5	176.4	178.4	181.3	182.0	178.3	179.6	184.0	185.2	184.2	184.7	180.3
TOTAL PRIVATE	132.8	132.9	133.8	135.5	138.2	141.5	142.8	143.7	143.2	141.9	140.9	141.8	139.0
MINING	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
CONSTRUCTION	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0
MANUFACTURING	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.5
DURABLE GOODS	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8
NONDURABLE GOODS	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7
TCU 1/	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.5
TRANSPORTATION	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.2
COMMUNICATIONS & UTILITIES	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
TRADE	44.6	44.3	44.4	45.2	46.8	48.2	48.9	49.4	49.2	48.0	48.0	48.5	47.1
WHOLESALE TRADE	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.5
RETAIL TRADE	40.3	39.9	40.0	40.7	42.2	43.6	44.2	44.7	44.3	43.2	43.4	43.9	42.5
EATING & DRINKING	16.2	16.3	16.4	17.0	17.6	18.6	18.8	19.5	19.2	18.2	17.7	17.7	17.7
FIRE 2/	11.4	11.4	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.8	12.1	12.1	12.0	11.9	12.1	12.2	11.8
FINANCE	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.5
SERVICES	63.4	64.1	64.6	65.2	65.7	67.3	67.8	68.3	67.7	67.7	66.7	67.0	66.2
HOTELS & OTHER LODGING	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.5	5.7	6.4	6.7	6.1	5.6	4.9	4.7	5.1
HEALTH SERVICES	26.5	26.6	26.6	26.6	26.5	26.6	26.5	26.6	26.4	26.4	26.4	26.4	26.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	41.6	42.6	42.6	42.9	43.1	40.5	35.5	35.9	40.8	43.3	43.3	42.9	41.2
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.2
STATE GOVERNMENT	12.0	12.5	12.3	12.3	11.9	10.6	10.4	10.7	12.4	12.9	12.8	12.5	11.9
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	24.6	25.2	25.4	25.6	26.0	24.5	19.6	19.7	23.0	25.0	25.4	25.3	24.1

1/ TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATIONS/UTILITIES

2/ FINANCE/INSURANCE/REAL ESTATE

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IS PRODUCED BY THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY FOR USE AS A STATE ECONOMIC INDICATOR

SOURCE FOR DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-5 ON FINAL PAGE

TABLE V
MONTANA HOURS & EARNINGS
 For Private Nonagricultural Production Workers


CES

 Current
 Employment
 Statistics

 Production Employment
 (In Thousands)

Average Weekly Earnings

	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1996
*TOTAL PRIVATE	246.0	243.2	242.3	237.7	\$361.26	\$359.03	\$355.62	\$347.96
MINING	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.3	\$691.39	\$710.72	\$733.94	\$690.95
*CONSTRUCTION	17.1	16.2	14.6	12.8	\$651.61	\$608.59	\$585.49	\$577.96
MANUFACTURING	17.8	17.5	17.5	17.6	\$535.01	\$538.76	\$560.12	\$518.76
Durable Goods	12.3	12.1	12.1	11.9	\$512.37	\$515.30	\$538.06	\$495.57
Nondurable	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.7	\$584.11	\$591.34	\$610.50	\$568.94
*TCU 1/	18.5	18.7	18.4	18.6	\$563.19	\$571.88	\$568.10	\$574.96
*Transportation	11.8	12.0	11.9	11.8	\$509.96	\$513.55	\$508.57	\$505.66
*Comm. & Utilities	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.8	\$659.46	\$677.60	\$676.45	\$697.10
*TRADE	86.5	86.2	86.2	86.1	\$260.13	\$259.88	\$258.69	\$249.02
*Wholesale Trade	15.5	15.6	15.5	15.4	\$453.61	\$453.91	\$455.45	\$428.84
*Retail Trade	71.0	70.6	70.7	70.7	\$217.54	\$217.34	\$216.01	\$210.19
*FIRE 2/	13.0	13.0	13.2	12.6	\$376.48	\$389.33	\$379.70	\$361.35
*SERVICES	88.8	87.5	88.4	85.7	\$307.82	\$308.24	\$306.05	\$310.63

Average Weekly Hours

Average Hourly Earnings

	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1996
*TOTAL PRIVATE	32.4	32.2	32.3	32.1	\$11.15	\$11.15	\$11.01	\$10.84
MINING	41.5	43.1	43.3	41.8	\$16.66	\$16.49	\$16.95	\$16.53
*CONSTRUCTION	40.7	38.3	36.8	36.1	\$16.01	\$15.89	\$15.91	\$16.01
MANUFACTURING	40.5	40.6	41.8	39.3	\$13.21	\$13.27	\$13.40	\$13.20
Durable Goods	40.6	40.8	42.3	39.3	\$12.62	\$12.63	\$12.72	\$12.61
Nondurable	40.2	40.2	40.7	39.4	\$14.53	\$14.71	\$15.00	\$14.44
*TCU 1/	37.9	38.1	38.0	39.3	\$14.86	\$15.01	\$14.95	\$14.63
*Transportation	38.0	37.9	37.7	38.6	\$13.42	\$13.55	\$13.49	\$13.10
*Comm. & Utilities	37.9	38.5	38.5	40.6	\$17.40	\$17.60	\$17.57	\$17.17
*TRADE	29.9	29.7	29.7	29.4	\$8.70	\$8.75	\$8.71	\$8.47
*Wholesale Trade	36.7	36.4	36.7	35.5	\$12.36	\$12.47	\$12.41	\$12.08
*Retail Trade	28.4	28.3	28.2	28.1	\$7.66	\$7.68	\$7.66	\$7.48
*FIRE 2/	36.2	37.4	36.9	36.5	\$10.40	\$10.41	\$10.29	\$9.90
*SERVICES	29.4	29.3	29.8	30.1	\$10.47	\$10.52	\$10.27	\$10.32

1/ TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION/UTILITIES

2/ FINANCE/INSURANCE/REAL ESTATE

 *ITEMS MARKED WITH AN *ARE PRODUCED BY THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
 INDUSTRY FOR USE AS STATE ECONOMIC INDICATORS.

PRODUCTION WORKERS ARE NONSUPERVISORY AND NONGOVERNMENT PAYROLL PERSONNEL.

SOURCE FOR DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-4 ON FINAL PAGE

TABLE VI
THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U.S.
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

ALL ITEMS (1982-1984 = 100)							
	1997		1996		1995		
	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W	
January	159.1	156.3	154.4	151.7	150.3	147.8	
February	159.6	156.8	154.9	152.2	150.9	148.3	
March	160.0	157.0	155.7	152.9	151.4	148.7	
April	160.2	157.2	156.3	153.6	151.9	149.3	
May	160.1	157.2	156.6	154.0	152.2	149.6	
June	160.3	157.4	156.7	154.1	152.5	149.9	
July	160.5	157.5	157.0	154.3	152.5	149.9	
August	160.8	157.8	157.3	154.5	152.9	150.2	
September	161.2	158.3	157.8	155.1	153.2	150.6	
October	161.6	158.5	158.3	155.5	153.7	151.0	
November	161.5	158.5	158.6	155.9	153.6	150.9	
December	161.3	158.2	158.6	155.9	153.5	150.9	
Dec-to-Dec %	1.7%	1.5%	3.3%	3.3%	2.5%	2.5%	
ANNUAL AVERAGE:	160.5	157.6	156.9	154.1	152.4	149.8	
Ann Avg %	2.3%	2.3%	3.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.9%	

Expenditure Category CPI-U Index	Relative Importance	% Change From			Ann Average %	
		Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	1996	1995
ALL ITEMS	100%	161.3	-0.1%	1.7%	3.0%	2.8%
Food & Beverages	18%	159.1	0.1%	1.6%	3.2%	2.8%
Housing	42%	157.7	0.0%	2.4%	2.9%	2.6%
Apparel & Upkeep	6%	131.6	-2.3%	1.0%	-0.2%	-1.0%
Transportation	18%	143.2	-0.5%	-1.4%	2.8%	3.6%
Medical Care	6%	237.1	0.3%	2.8%	3.5%	4.5%
Entertainment	4%	163.1	0.1%	1.4%	3.4%	2.5%
Other Goods & Services	6%	230.1	0.1%	5.2%	4.1%	4.2%

Purchasing Power Of Consumer Dollar:	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1996	Ann Average	
				1996	1995
(1982-84 = \$1.00)	\$0.62	\$0.62	\$0.63	\$0.64	\$0.66

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) IS A MEASURE OF THE AVERAGE CHANGE IN THE PRICES PAID BY URBAN CONSUMERS FOR A FIXED MARKET BASKET OF GOODS AND SERVICES. THE CPI IS CALCULATED MONTHLY FOR TWO POPULATION GROUPS, ONE CONSISTING ONLY OF THE URBAN HOUSEHOLDS WHOSE PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME IS DERIVED FROM THE EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS (CPI-W). AS NEW USES WERE DEVELOPED FOR THE CPI IN RECENT YEARS, THE NEED FOR A BROADER AND MORE REPRESENTATIVE INDEX BECAME APPARENT. THE ALL-URBAN CONSUMER INDEX (CPI-U), INTRODUCED IN 1978, IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 1982-84 BUYING HABITS OF ABOUT 80% OF THE NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION, COMPARED WITH 32% REPRESENTED IN CPI-W.

SOURCE FOR DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTE S-6 ON FINAL PAGE

TABLE VII
NEW AND CHANGED OWNERSHIP BUSINESSES IN MONTANA

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	New Oct. To Dec. 1997	Changed Oct. To Dec. 1997	New Oct. To Dec. 1996	Changed Oct. To Dec. 1996	Year-to-Date 1997 1996	
State of MT	936	354	737	267	4763	5277
Great Falls MSA	65	31	51	12	295	337
Billings MSA	116	27	104	36	635	701
Multi County	106	12	85	11	433	424
Anaconda-Butte LFA	49	22	38	19	288	341
Beaverhead	12	4	5	2	51	51
Deer Lodge	6	1	7	4	24	35
Granite	4	4	0	0	14	6
Madison	5	5	7	3	52	62
Powell	6	1	1	2	22	33
Silver Bow	16	7	18	8	125	154
Bozeman LFA	125	44	81	37	607	644
Gallatin	101	37	66	25	501	502
Meagher	0	2	1	1	6	15
Park	24	5	14	11	100	127
Glasgow LFA	23	9	12	14	110	124
Daniels	3	1	2	0	15	12
Phillips	3	2	1	4	20	19
Roosevelt	7	1	3	7	24	41
Sheridan	2	2	3	0	18	22
Valley	8	3	3	3	33	30
Glendive LFA	22	9	12	5	91	97
Dawson	6	4	0	0	30	33
Garfield	0	1	0	1	4	4
McCone	2	0	1	2	7	6
Prairie	2	1	2	0	3	5
Richland	11	3	8	2	44	45
Wibaux	1	0	1	0	3	4
Hardin-Red Lodge LFA	18	16	22	4	140	159
Big Horn	7	2	4	0	25	40
Carbon	5	9	12	4	62	73
Stillwater	3	3	4	0	39	29
Sweet Grass	3	2	2	0	14	17

CHANGED OWNERSHIP BUSINESSES ARE SUCCESSORS TO ACTIVE ACCOUNTS (AN ESTABLISHED BUSINESS WITH A NEW OWNER) WHICH ACCOUNT FOR OVER ONE-FOURTH OF THE TOTAL.

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area

LFA-Labor Force Area

SOURCE: This table was prepared by the Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Research & Analysis Bureau, from Unemployment Insurance administrative records and is produced for informational purposes only.

TABLE VII
NEW AND CHANGED OWNERSHIP BUSINESSES IN MONTANA

Page 2 of 2



AREAS	New Oct. To Dec.	Changed Oct. To Dec.	New Oct. To Dec.	Changed Oct. To Dec.	Year -to-Date	
	1997	1997	1996	1996	1997	1996
Havre LFA	28	10	14	11	100	96
Blaine	5	1	2	2	19	24
Hill	20	8	10	8	74	61
Liberty	3	1	2	1	7	11
Helena LFA	50	19	40	24	310	386
Broadwater	4	2	0	1	17	31
Jefferson	5	2	5	4	32	44
Lewis & Clark	41	15	35	19	261	311
Kalispell LFA	122	58	95	41	668	697
Flathead	84	40	70	28	478	475
Lake	23	13	14	8	108	130
Lincoln	15	5	11	5	82	92
Lewistown LFA	16	6	18	8	79	113
Fergus	7	3	7	2	43	54
Golden Valley	1	0	1	0	5	3
Judith Basin	1	0	4	2	4	10
Musselshell	5	2	6	4	17	39
Petroleum	0	1	0	0	1	1
Wheatland	2	0	0	0	9	6
Miles City LFA	18	12	24	4	94	137
Carter	1	0	3	0	4	9
Custer	4	5	6	2	43	58
Fallon	3	3	2	1	10	18
Powder River	2	1	7	0	11	22
Rosebud	8	3	5	0	23	27
Treasure	0	0	1	1	3	3
Missoula LFA	156	59	128	34	798	872
Mineral	3	0	2	0	18	23
Missoula	106	51	80	26	542	541
Ravalli	33	6	36	5	172	226
Sanders	14	2	10	3	66	82
Shelby-Cut Bank LFA	22	20	13	7	115	149
Choteau	7	3	2	1	25	22
Glacier	4	5	5	1	28	44
Pondera	4	1	1	0	10	19
Teton	5	8	2	2	33	33
Toole	2	3	3	3	19	31

CHANGED OWNERSHIP BUSINESSES ARE SUCCESSORS TO ACTIVE ACCOUNTS (AN ESTABLISHED BUSINESS WITH A NEW OWNER) WHICH ACCOUNT FOR OVER ONE-FOURTH OF THE TOTAL.

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area
LFA-Labor Force Area

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Glossary of Terms

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the armed forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who although not working had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployed - those persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of people by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of jobs by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed using the X-11 ARIMA method of seasonal adjustment. This is the same method used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to seasonally adjust the national labor force series.

8. MSA - Metropolitan Statistical Area - as determined by the Office of Management and Budget. The MSA must have a central city with a population of 50,000 or more.

9. LFA - Labor Force Area as determined by the Research and Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry, consists of a central city or cities with a population of less than 50,000 and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

10. SDA - The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was established to replace CETA in job search, placement, relocation, and especially training assistance. Each state designs local plans for JTPA programs through a Private Industry Council (PIC). Each PIC jurisdiction is known as Service Delivery Area (SDA). The 2 SDA's for Montana are known as Rural CEP (Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Granite, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Madison, Meagher, Powell, and Silver Bow counties) and Balance of State (the other 46 counties).

11. BENCHMARKING - It is a continuous process of establishing a new set of data which affects the series of estimates through revisions. Once a new benchmark is established, the adjustments to estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one are carried forward progressively to the current month by use of sample trends. The benchmark is established less frequently (usually once a year) based on sample or secondary data. In the case of employment data, the benchmark is used to establish the level of employment, while the sample is primarily used to measure the month - to - month changes in the level.

12. CES-790 Program - current employment statistics survey produces monthly estimates of a wide variety of employment and earnings information for the nation and each state.

Sources of Data

S-1.) Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). LAUS data (Local Area Unemployment Statistics program) is adjusted to the Current Population Survey benchmark and is the official BLS approved series that is used to allocate federal funds and determine eligibility for federal assistance programs. This series represents employment and unemployment by place of residence, and is not comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series (CES data). LAUS data is calculated for the week that includes the 12th of the month. Workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. Total employment in the labor force also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestic workers and the self-employed.

S-2.) Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau. The unadjusted unemployment rate is prepared by the LAUS program in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The seasonally adjusted rate is an unofficial series, and is provided only for use as a state economic indicator.

S-3.) Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau from LAUS data. Data for Service Delivery Areas and Labor Force Areas is calculated from the official data series by summing up employment and unemployment for the appropriate counties involved, and calculating an unemployment rate from the summed data for each area.

S-4.) Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data from the CES (Current Employment Statistics) program represents employment by place-of-work, and covers full-time and part-time employees who worked during, or received pay for, the payroll period that includes the 12th of the month. The data excludes the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers and domestic workers. Persons on sick leave, vacations, or holidays (and being paid for that period by their employer) are considered employed. Payroll and worker-hour data is collected for production and related workers in manufacturing industries, nonsupervisory workers in private service-producing industries, and construction workers in construction industries. The earnings figures are "gross" figures—that is, they reflect changes in wage rates, shift differentials and premium pay for overtime work. The hours figures relate to the hours for which pay was received, which is different from scheduled or standard work hours.

S-5.) Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau from a survey of Business Establishments as part of the BLS-790 Program. Information on Women Workers is computed as a ratio of All Employees of the Current Employment Statistics, and is produced for informational purposes only.

S-6.) Tabulations produced by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, and reprinted by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau for informational purposes only. This is a national data series because Montana data is not computed separately.

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